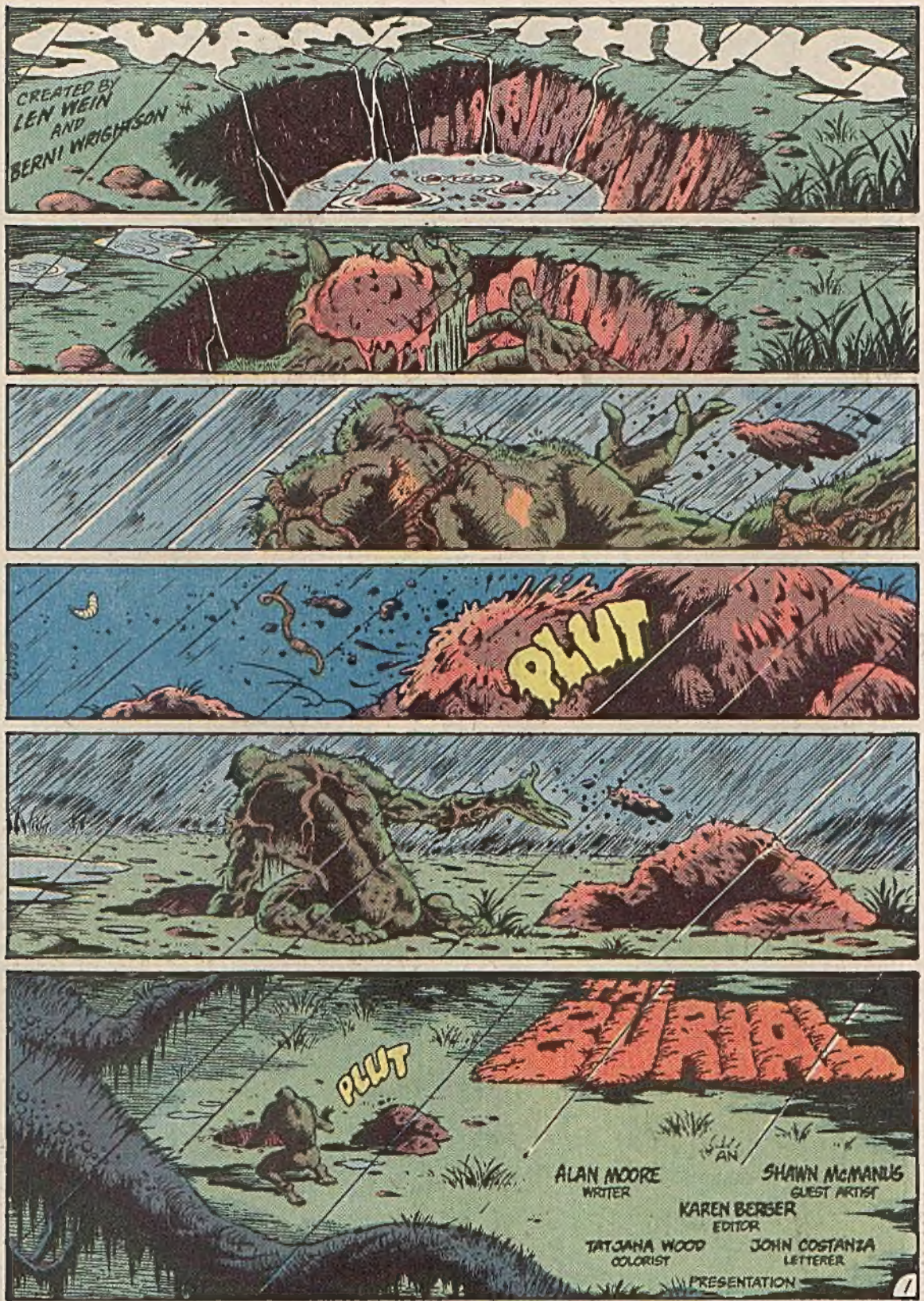
The SAGA of the
SWAMP THING
28
75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 30p
SEPT. 84
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SR BISSETTE & TOTLEBEN 1-9-84
THE NEW DC
THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.
BY ALAN MOORE STEPHEN BISSETTE AND JOHN TOTLEBEN



THE SAGA OF SWAMP THING 28 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., PO Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside USA $10.00. Copyright © 1984 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed in USA. Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

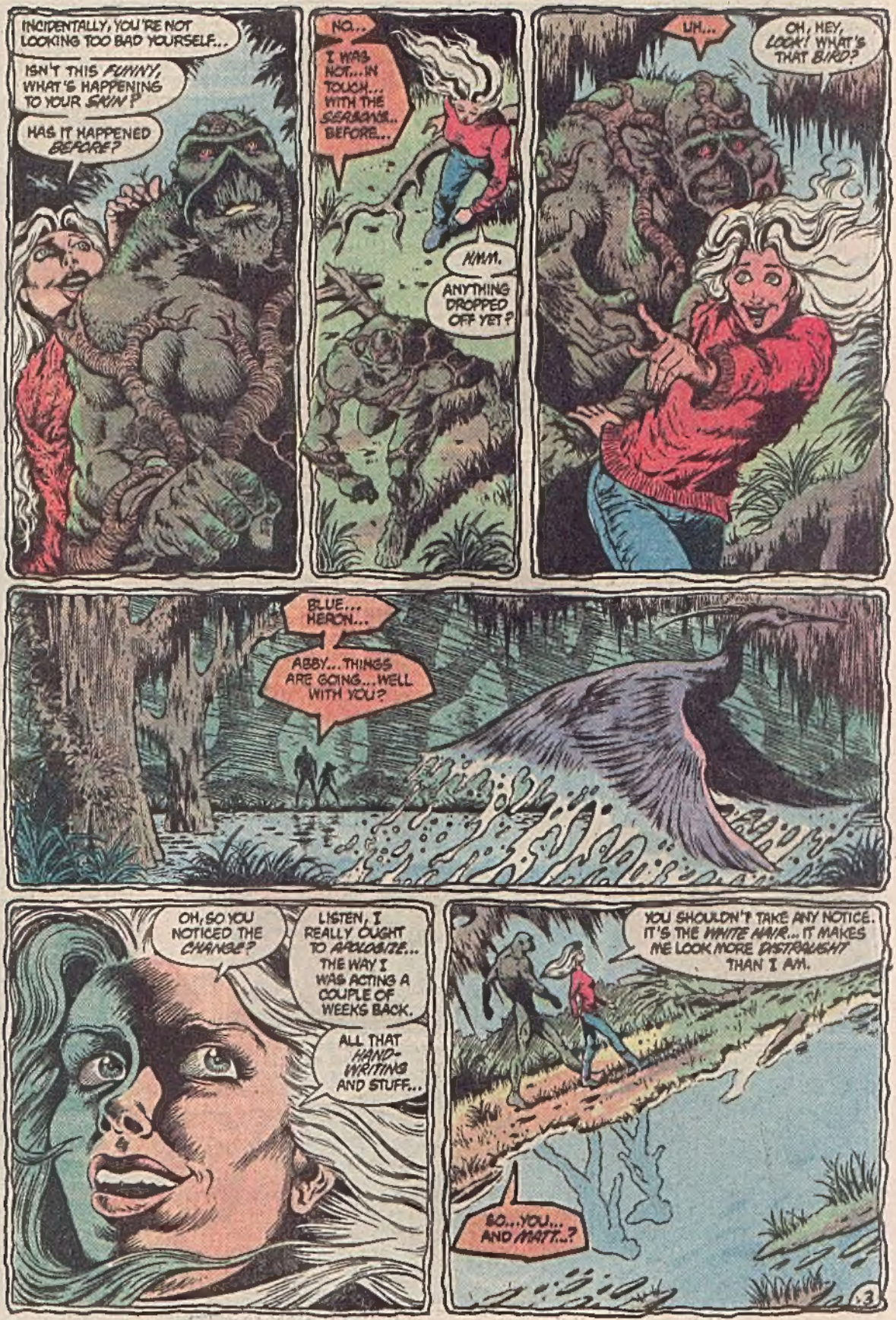
HOW DEEP...?

HOW DEEP... DOES IT HAVE... TO BE? THE SOIL IS... WET... THE DIGGING... DIFFICULT...

PLUT

...AND I... HAVE BEEN DIGGING... FOR SUCH... A LONG... TIME...

IT LOOKS NICE IN AUTUMN, DOESN'T IT?


INCIDENTALLY, YOU'RE NOT LOOKING TOO BAD YOURSELF...
ISN'T THIS FUNNY, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR SKIN?
HAS IT HAPPENED BEFORE?
NO...
I WAS NOT... IN TOUCH... WITH THE SEASONS... BEFORE...
HMM.
ANYTHING DROPPED OFF YET?
UH...
OH, HEY, LOOK! WHAT'S THAT BIRD?
BLUE... HERON...
ABBY... THINGS ARE GOING... WELL WITH YOU?
OH, SO YOU NOTICED THE CHANGE?
LISTEN, I REALLY OUGHT TO APOLOGIZE... THE WAY I WAS ACTING A COUPLE OF WEEKS BACK.
ALL THAT HAND-WRITING AND STUFF...
YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE ANY NOTICE. IT'S THE WHITE HAIR... IT MAKES ME LOOK MORE DISTRAUGHT THAN I AM.
SO... YOU... AND MATT...?
3

ME AND MATT ARE FINE.

HE'S REALLY PICKED UP, Y'KNOW? HE DOESN'T JUST SIT AROUND ANYMORE, AND THE DRINKING'S STOPPED...

HE'S OUT LOOKING FOR A HOUSE FOR US. DID I TELL YOU THAT?

A HOUSE? NO.

THE MONEY... IS YOUR JOB...?

AT ELYSIUM LAWNS? OH, THAT'S TREMENDOUS, JUST THE WAY IT'S WORKING OUT AND EVERYTHING...

AFTER THAT INCIDENT WITH THE DEMON CREATURE, I THOUGHT IT WOULD ALL BE... WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I THOUGHT.

BUT IT WAS AMAZING... THEY JUST EXPLAINED EVERYTHING AWAY AS "MASS-HYSTERIA," STUFF LIKE THAT...

...SO THE HOME'S JUST CARRYING ON AS NORMAL, WHATEVER "NORMAL" IS...

OH, SAY, I WAS MEANING TO ASK YOU...

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW LONG IT'S TAKING FOR THE FLIES TO DIE OFF THIS YEAR?

OUR MOTEL IS FULL OF 'EM. I WONDERED IF IT WAS, I DUNNO, SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE GLASSHOUSE EFFECT, OR...

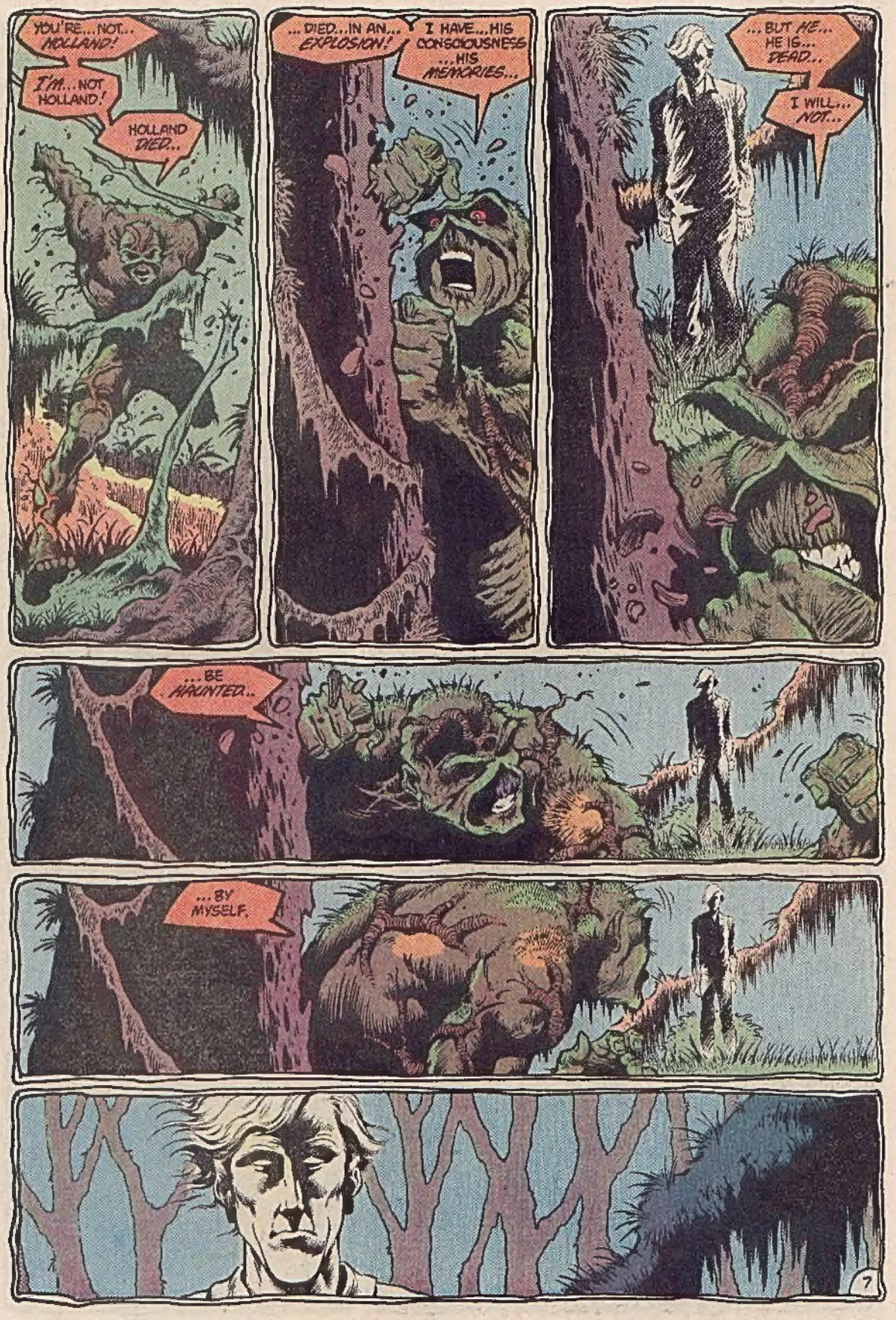
UH... ALEC?

4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

ALEC?
WHAT, DID YOU SEE SOMETHING, OR...?
DON'T...KEEP... CALLING ME... ALEC!
I...
I'M SORRY, I...
I'M... NOT... ALEC HOLLAND...
ALEC HOLLAND... IS...DEAD...
RUT
5

...BUT NOT BURIED.
PLUT
HOW DEEP..?
HOW DEEP... DO YOU NEED... TO BURY... THE PAST...
...BEFORE... IT WILL STAY... DEAD?
WHERE?
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU?
6


YOU'RE...NOT... HOLLAND!
I'M...NOT HOLLAND!
HOLLAND DIED..
...DIED...IN AN... EXPLOSION!
I HAVE...HIS CONSCIOUSNESS ...HIS MEMORIES...
...BUT HE... HE IS... DEAD..
I WILL... NOT...
...BE HAUNTED..
...BY MYSELF.

WAIT...

WAIT... DON'T GO...

COME BACK...

PLEASE...

PLEASE COME BACK...

BUT HE DIDN'T.. COME BACK...

PLUT

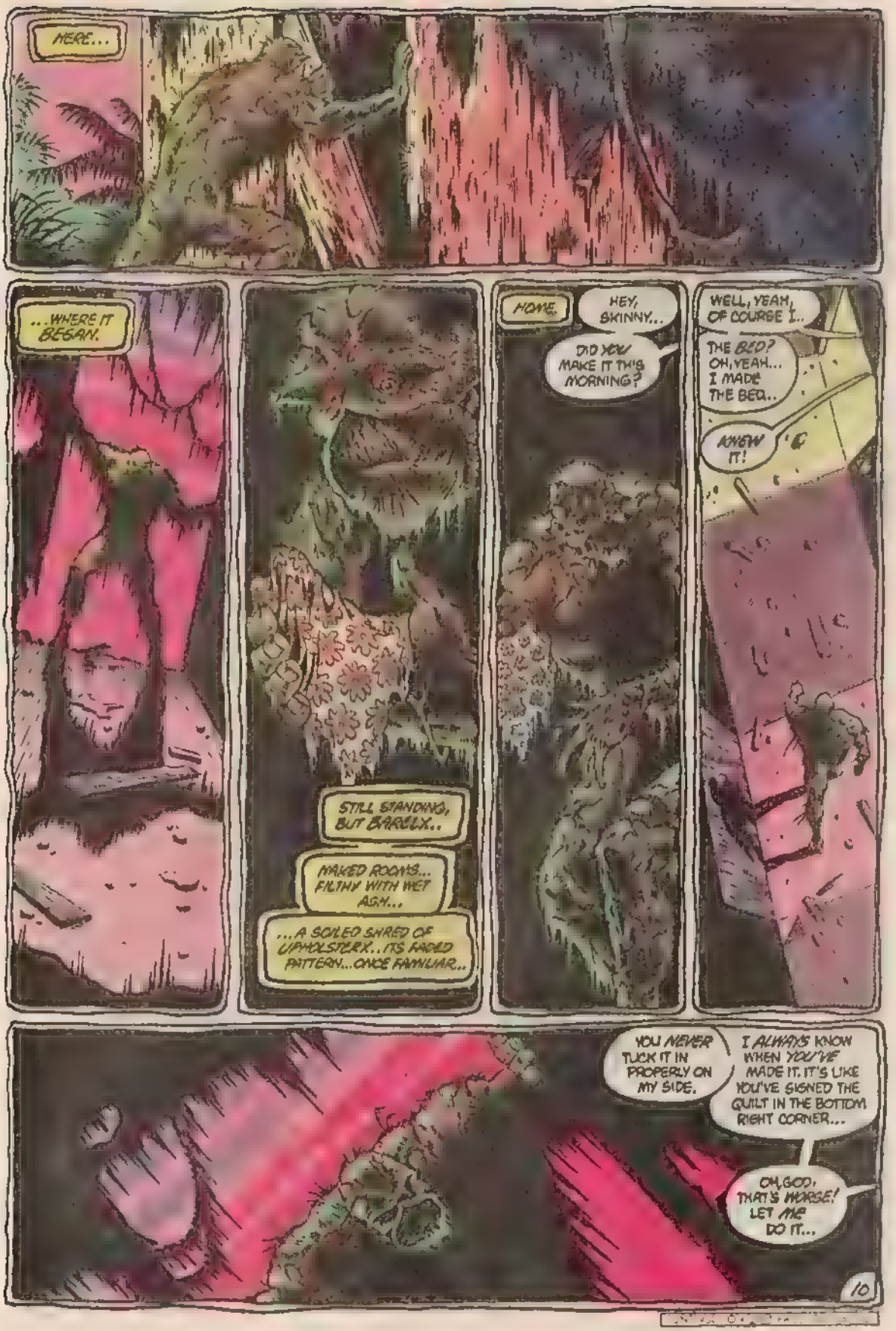
AND SO I... HAD TO FOLLOW... HIM...

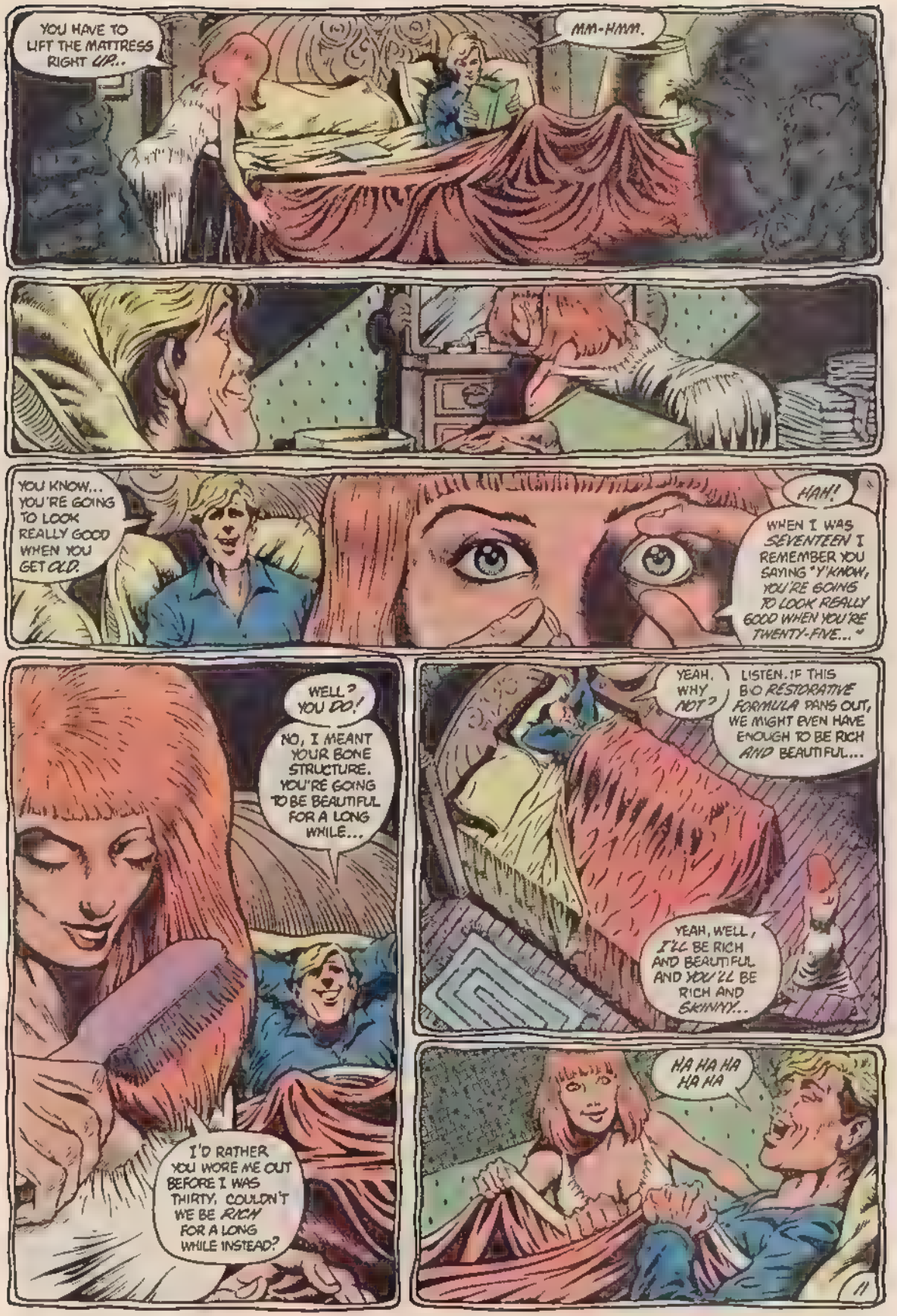
FOLLOW HIM... THROUGH THE LUMINOUS DUSK...

FOLLOW HIM... ALONG THE BRITTLE PATHS... OF AUTUMN...

THROUGH POOLS OF COLD WATER...

...FOLLOW HIM HERE.


HERE...
...WHERE IT BEGAN.
STILL STANDING, BUT BARELY...
NAKED ROOMS... FILTHY WITH WET ASH...
...A SOILED SHRED OF UPHOLSTERY... ITS FADED PATTERN... ONCE FAMILIAR...
HOME.
HEY, SKINNY...
DID YOU MAKE IT THIS MORNING?
WELL, YEAH, OF COURSE I...
THE BED? OH, YEAH... I MADE THE BED...
KNEW IT!
YOU NEVER TUCK IT IN PROPERLY ON MY SIDE.
I ALWAYS KNOW WHEN YOU'VE MADE IT. IT'S LIKE YOU'VE SIGNED THE QUILT IN THE BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER...
OH, GOD, THAT'S WORSE! LET ME DO IT...


YOU HAVE TO LIFT THE MATTRESS RIGHT UP...
MM-HMM.
YOU KNOW... YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK REALLY GOOD WHEN YOU GET OLD.
HAH!
WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN I REMEMBER YOU SAYING "Y'KNOW, YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK REALLY GOOD WHEN YOU'RE TWENTY-FIVE..."
WELL? YOU DO!
NO, I MEANT YOUR BONE STRUCTURE. YOU'RE GOING TO BE BEAUTIFUL FOR A LONG WHILE...
I'D RATHER YOU WORE ME OUT BEFORE I WAS THIRTY. COULDN'T WE BE RICH FOR A LONG WHILE INSTEAD?
YEAH. WHY NOT?
LISTEN. IF THIS BIO RESTORATIVE FORMULA PANS OUT, WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE ENOUGH TO BE RICH AND BEAUTIFUL...
YEAH, WELL, I'LL BE RICH AND BEAUTIFUL AND YOU'LL BE RICH AND SKINNY...
HA HA HA HA HA

YOU COLD?

NO.

ARE YOU READING?

NO...

HOME.

...WHERE THE HEART IS...

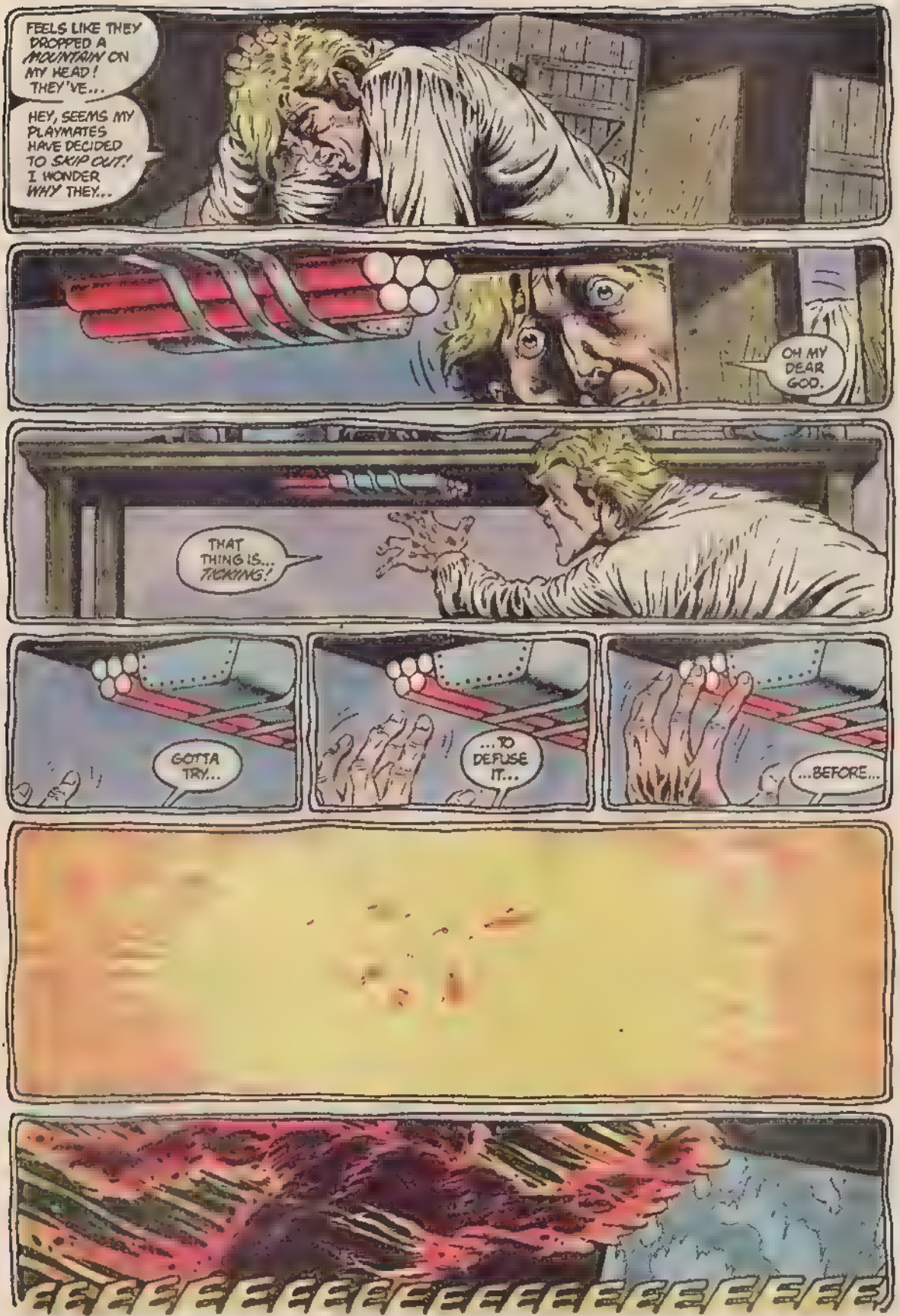
WHERE WE LIVED, ME...AND LINDA...

...WHERE WE DIED.

BUT, DR. HOLLAND... WE CAME TO YOU IN GOOD FAITH!

SAVE IT FOR THE BOYS IN BLUE, FERRETT.
MY WIFE AND I'LL SLEEP A LOT BETTER... KNOWING YOU THREE ARE BEHIND BARS!
SORRY WE CAN'T ACCOMMO-DATE YOU, DOC!
BRUNO.
...TAKE HIM.
NO!
HE WILL NOT BOTHER US, FERRETT.
SWELL! THEN WE CAN PLANT OUR LITTLE "SURPRISE PACKAGE" AN' GET THE HECK AWAY FROM THIS DUMP!
NO! STOP...
AGREED! I WANT TO BE MILES FROM HERE WHEN OUR GRACIOUS GIFT BLOWS!
HOWLAND. WAKE UP..
YOU MUST.. WAKE UP..
WAKE UP AND...IT WILL ALL TURN OUT.. DIFFERENTLY
HOWLAND.. PLEASE..
UNNHH...
13

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING


FEELS LIKE THEY DROPPED A MOUNTAIN ON MY HEAD! THEY'VE...
HEY, SEEMS MY PLAYMATES HAVE DECIDED TO SKIP OUT! I WONDER WHY THEY...
OH MY DEAR GOD.
THAT THING IS... TICKING!
GOTTA TRY...
...TO DEFUSE IT...
...BEFORE...

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THERE...
IT IS DONE.
PLUT
15

ALL DONE.

BUT WHERE...

...IS THE BODY?

FOR HOURS I SAT...

...AND WATCHED...

...AND WAITED...

NOTHING.

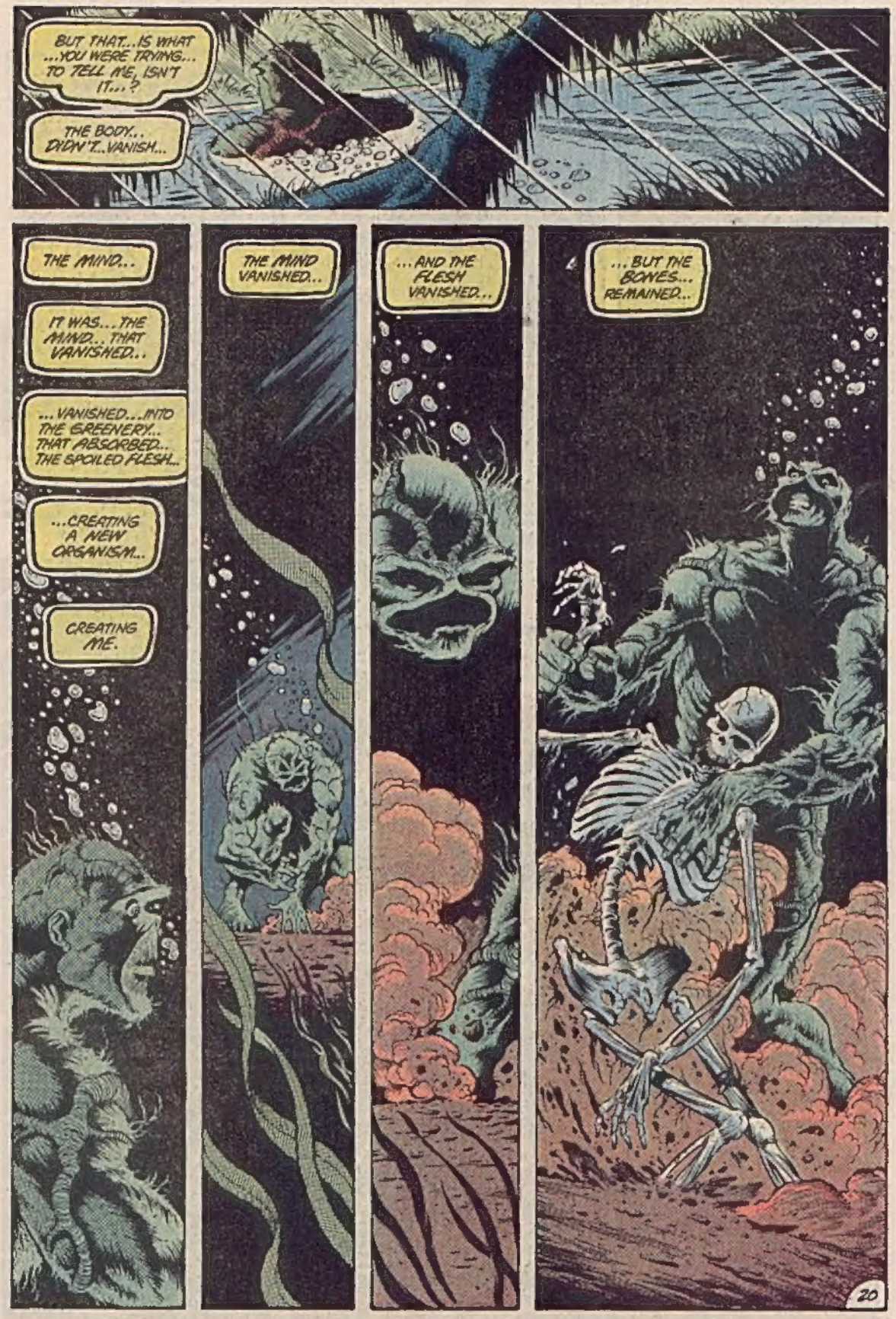
ALMOST NOTHING.

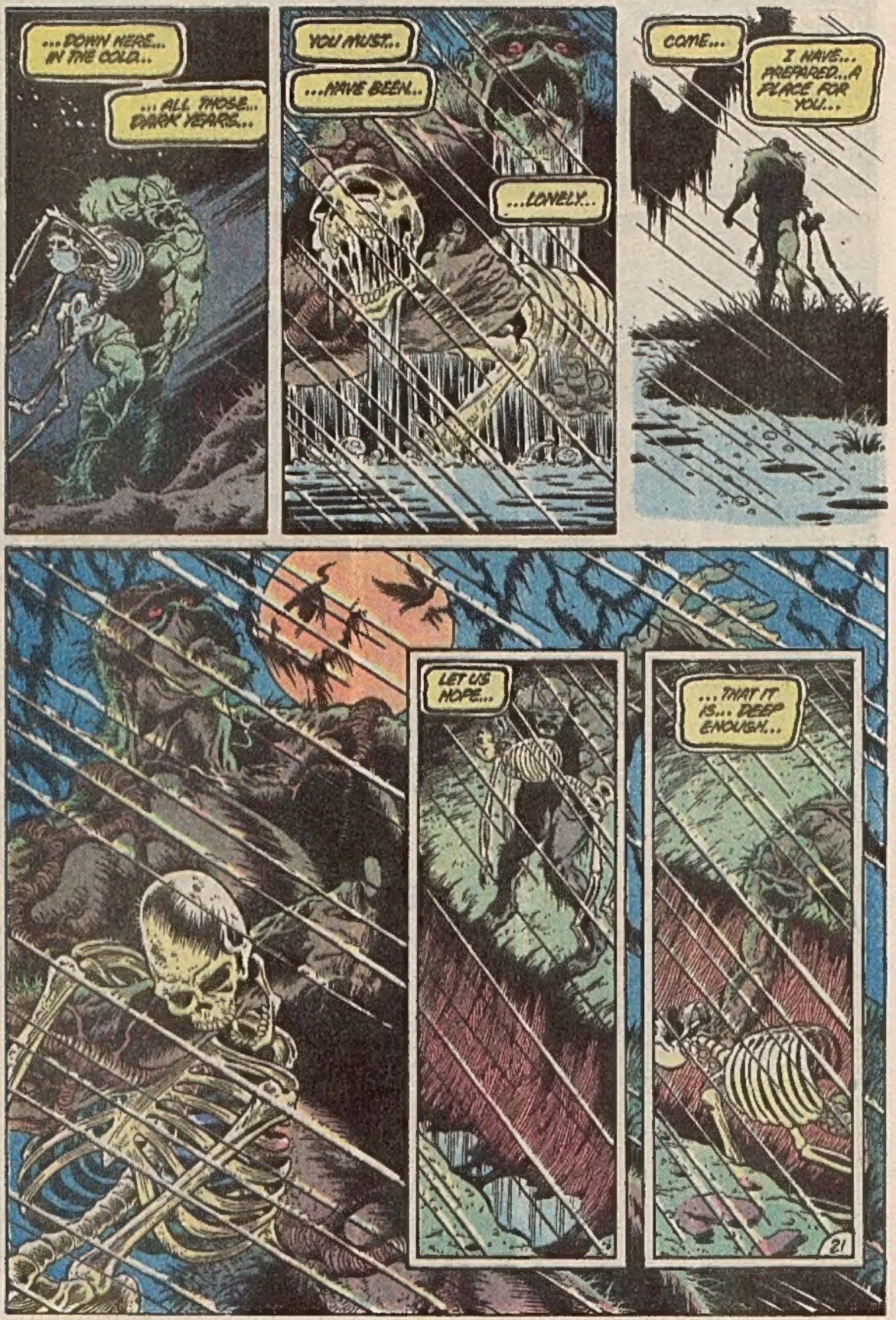
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

ALMOST...
ALMOST NOTHING.

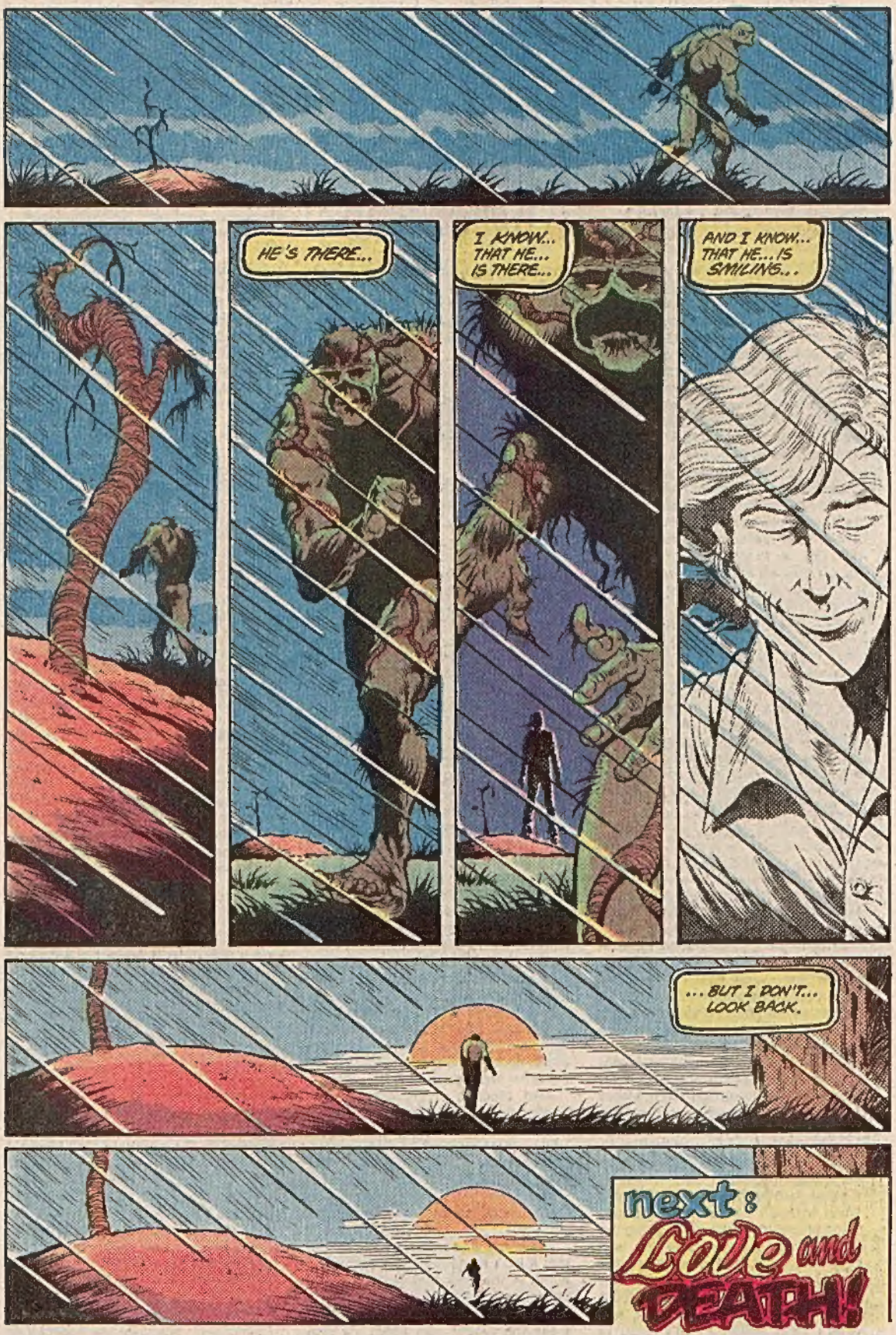
YOU...CAN SEE ME...?
NEAR ME...!
BUT... I HAVE SO MUCH ..TO TELL YOU..
YOUR FUTURE..
THINGS... THAT YOU... MUST KNOW..
THE MUD..?
SOMETHING... UNDER... THE MUD?

NOTHING.
AN EMPTY SPACE... MAKES EMPTY GESTURES...
...AND I HAVE DUG... AN EMPTY GRAVE...
...TO FIT... A VANISHED BODY.


BUT THAT...IS WHAT ...YOU WERE TRYING... TO TELL ME, ISN'T IT...?
THE BODY.. DIDN'T...VANISH...
THE MIND..
IT WAS...THE MIND...THAT VANISHED..
...VANISHED...INTO THE GREENERY.. THAT ABSORBED... THE SPOILED FLESH..
...CREATING A NEW ORGANISM...
CREATING ME.
THE MIND VANISHED...
...AND THE FLESH VANISHED...
...BUT THE BONES... REMAINED...
20


...DOWN HERE... IN THE COLD...
...ALL THOSE... DARK YEARS...
YOU MUST...
...HAVE BEEN...
...LONELY...
COME...
I HAVE... PREPARED...A PLACE FOR YOU...
LET US HOPE...
...THAT IT IS... DEEP ENOUGH...
21

CONTINUED ON 23RD PAGE FOLLOWING.


HE'S THERE...
I KNOW... THAT HE... IS THERE...
AND I KNOW... THAT HE... IS SMILING...
...BUT I DON'T... LOOK BACK.
next: Love and DEATH!